

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Yosemite National Park

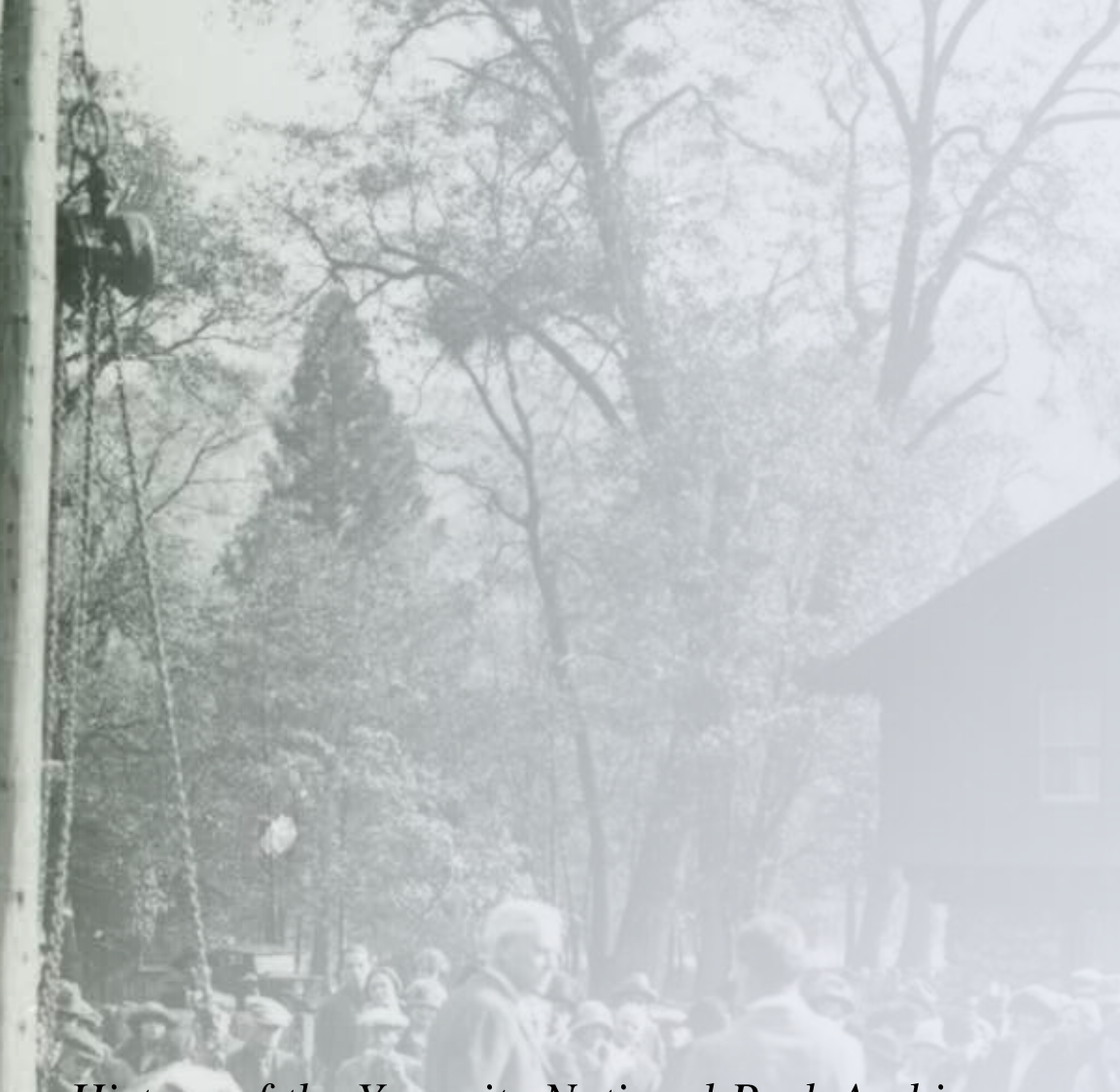
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# *Guide to the Yosemite National Park Archives*







## *History of the Yosemite National Park Archives*

■ The Yosemite National Park Archives is a repository operated by the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) that collects, preserves, and makes accessible the documentary history of Yosemite National Park. While some administrative records were kept following the establishment of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove as a state park in 1864, and eventual designation as a national park in 1890,

it was not until after the National Park Service assumed administration of the Yosemite in 1916 that government records and Yosemite related manuscripts and papers began to formally be acquired and managed as a collection.

In 1924, Yosemite completed the first purpose-built museum in the NPS system, also creating a research library for park staff and general public use. As part of

the museum effort, park employees began managing loans and gifts of manuscripts, photographs, rare books, and artifacts, establishing Yosemite's museum and library collections. Early NPS acquisition practices reflected an informal effort to collect information to "tell the park story" to visitors, while some official government records were also maintained by staff as part of the growing collections.

During the 1940s and 1950s, the Park Service worked to standardize museum policies service-wide, including records disposition. By the 1960s, Yosemite began transfer of official NPS records to regional repositories of the National Archives and Records Administration while retaining paper and manuscript collections as part of the Yosemite Museum and Library. Continued NPS museum program professionalization and new federal mandates to care for agency collections, prompted park museum staff to create the first Yosemite "Records Center" by 1975. Located in the Valley Museum Building, the park research librarian became a more active manager of the federal records that remained in the park.

Recognition of archival management as a distinct practice within the museum program came slowly. The classification of NPS Resource Management Records – project and administrative records with permanent value that reflect the ongoing management of park resources – and recognition of the importance of their availability on-site to staff and


researchers, prompted the appointment in 1989 of the park historian to care for the growing Archives. In 1996, the park shifted the Archives to a larger climate controlled storage space within the Yosemite Administrative Complex in El Portal, California. The park hired the first professional archivist in 2005.

Today, the Yosemite Archives contains over four million items, including documents, photographs, motion picture films, maps, plans, and oral histories. Some of the more notable holdings include the business records of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, one of the longest operating NPS concessions; the Joseph Dixon Collection, created by an early naturalist who took thousands of photographs documenting the natural history of Yosemite and other western parks; and the Yosemite Nature Notes Collection, a long-running NPS interpretive publication. The Yosemite Archives provides critical information and support to public researchers and park staff for study, education, and the continual management of resources within one of the nation's most iconic national parks. The Archives is a part of the Museum branch, within the Division of Interpretation.

**Museum cornerstone being laid at New Village dedication, November 16, 1924. Stephen Mather at right center. Negative RL-13,611.**

**Front Cover: Yosemite Newspaper Clippings Collection, Scrapbook Four, page 80.**





## Abbreviated Scope of Collections Statement

### ■ **Archival and Manuscript Collection**

Archives normally encompass a body of records. It is the context between these items that provides a 4th dimensional value. This value, more commonly referred to as metadata, is key when considering future collections. The purpose of an archive is to acquire raw data, correspondence, photo-documentation and research so we can trace the evolution of decision-making and actions with primary source materials. The purpose of the Yosemite Archives is to acquire primary source materials to document the history of the park.

The Park Archive totals 4,079,578 items, consisting primarily of materials associated with the resource management activities of the park, including digital files, books, field notes, reports, manuscripts,

ephemera and photographs.

Policy and procedures for archival collections and records management are outlined in NPS Management Policies (2006) 5.3.5.5.4 "Museum Collections Acquisition, Management, Disposition," Director's Order #11D: Records Management (2012), the Museum Handbook, Part II, Appendix D: Archives and Manuscript Collections (2005), and the NPS Records Disposition Schedule Appendix B (2005)

### ■ **Archives, Manuscripts and Ephemera**

The Archives will collect photographs, personal papers, ephemera, documents, and manuscripts documenting Yosemite National Park. All items and materials should be pertinent and relevant to

Yosemite 1700s-present. However, items concerning conservation, court proceedings, climate, scientific research and other significant events outside the boundaries of the park but pertaining to the scope, should be included.

### ■ **Park Resource Management and Administrative History Documentary Material**

Records and manuscripts documenting park activities, past and present, including administrative records, park planning documents (such as the General Management Plan), resource management reports, building files, photographs, maps, drawings and ephemera such as old brochures, pamphlets, or stickers will be collected and maintained as part of the park's archives.

### ■ **Future Collections Activity – Archives and Manuscripts**

The Park Records Management Committee and/or the Park Archivist will examine all park files to determine proper disposition and to ensure the retention of important official records in the Park. Other materials to be retained include materials related to scientific studies and resource management activities; oral histories, historic resource studies, and similar reports; photographs, blueprints, specifications and other items documenting facility development. Retained materials are managed as part of the museum collection. Official records not retained which have permanent value are sent to San Bruno, NARA.

RL 015919 Auto Caravan Yosemite Falls





## *Guidelines for Handling Archival Materials*

1. Sign the Collections Access Log in the research room.
2. Only paper, pencils, and other equipment necessary for digitizing will be allowed in the research room. Leave all bags, folders, and containers in the Archives Annex or research room lockers.
3. No smoking, food, or drink is allowed in the research room.
4. Handle items with extreme care! Always wash hands before handling objects. Use white cotton gloves provided by curatorial staff. Keep handling to a minimum. Do not remove staples, paperclips, etc. Please ask the archivist for help.
5. Requested material will be brought to the research area for use and returned to storage by archives staff.
6. Please keep archival documents and photos in the order in which they were found, and return each item in the folder and/or box in which it was originally located. Use removal slips whenever removing documents from a folder and/or box.
7. No archival collection will be allowed to leave the archives unless proper loan arrangements are made and conditions have been approved.
8. Use only pencils to take notes when handling archival materials. No ink pens are allowed
9. Tracing documents is not permitted.
10. Unless materials require special handling, photocopying is done by the researcher. Copies cost \$0.25 each.
11. All materials will be cleared from the research tables by 4:30 p.m. daily.
12. The park reserves the right to receive copies of completed research papers and publications derived from research at the park archives, as a condition for granting access to the collections.

Passengers wait at the Yosemite Valley Railroad baggage platform in El Portal, CA, 1927. Negative RL-4517.



RL-0671 CCC Boys on overhanging rock.

## *Open to the Public*

■ The Yosemite Park Archives is open to the public for research use. Research use of the archives is allowed by appointment only. Due to limited staff and space restrictions researchers must make appointments, preferably two weeks in advance. When staffed, the Archives is opened from 8:00am to 4:30pm, closed for lunch. The Park Archives is located in El Portal and can be difficult to locate. Staff will send a map and directions to aid in this endeavor.

Anyone seeking to donate archive or manuscript collections should contact the park archivist. The park acquires materials that are within the scope of collections and requires donors to sign a deed of gift giving these materials to the

park in perpetuity.

Reproduction requests are subject to a cost recovery charge – see the cost recovery table. Photocopies, digital cameras, and some scanning of materials are also allowed when approved by the archives staff. Charges still apply when researchers do their own photocopying or scanning. All types of copies are subject to restrictions based on handling and copyright concerns. Tours are available with advance notice, and are limited to groups no larger than fifteen people due to space restrictions.

Yosemite Archives  
(209) 379-1282, 379-1283, 379-1104  
YOSE Archives@nps.gov





Clockwise: Patented Lands within the Yosemite National Park, 1905; Merced Grove of Big Trees, 1934; Site Map for Yosemite Purchase, ca. 1939; Design and Engineering Collection. Gateways to Yosemite National Park, Showing the Routes of the Yosemite Transportation System, marketing ephemera, Yosemite Park and Curry Company Collection.

## Collections Histories

### ■ 1000 - Army Administration Records (Cavalry)

1891 - 1914

From the 1890s through about 1914, the US Cavalry was deployed to maintain order in Yosemite. Their mandate was to prevent trespass by shepherds, miners, and cattlemen, to eliminate illegal hunting, and to suppress fires. Approximately 12 linear feet of records include annual reports by park superintendents, correspondence, letterpress copy books, ledger books, monthly reports, and patrol books. Duplicates of original records may be housed at the National Archives. This collection documents both the routine protection and security activities of the cavalry at Yosemite, as well as the cavalry's views on how the park should be managed. Arranged into series by document type.

### ■ 1001 - NPS Old Central Files Records

1851-1994

The collection is comprised of 41 linear feet of material revealing the management strategies and interactions of Yosemite National Park in the early 20th century. Materials range from general correspondence and memoranda to construction permits/plans and search & rescue reports. The collection contains material produced by Yosemite National Park which illuminates

various aspects of park operations during the early 20th century including personnel activities, budget and hiring authorities, interpretation & education methodologies, concessionaire partnerships (Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company, Best's Studio, Pillsbury Pictures, Yosemite Park & Curry Company, etc.), transportation/construction contractors and projects (Yosemite Valley Railroad Company), natural and cultural resource management, and scientific research in Yosemite National Park. Most of the documents in the collection are inter-office and inter-agency correspondence and memoranda that led to decisions in the National Park Service.

The collection is divided into 12 series and arranged according to Dewey Decimal NPS central filing codes. One series of un-coded materials is arranged alphabetically, and one series of OCFC records is recovered from other collections.

### ■ 1002 - Resource Management Records

1917 - 2008

The Yosemite National Park Resource Management Records consist of the documents created, received, and managed by the National Park Service as the park "central files" from the mid-1950s to 2008. These documents are fundamental program records that



contain critical information regarding the administration and management of the park over time, including the establishment of park policies and planning efforts. The documentation provides insight into some of the developments that have shaped Yosemite, and the National Park System, over the last sixty years, including the evolution of park law enforcement, development of a new natural and cultural resource management ethics, administration of park concessions operations, park wilderness designation and management, infrastructure and facilities development and maintenance, changing approaches to interpretation and education, and major park planning efforts and initiatives in the eras before and after passage of the National Environmental Policy Act. The approximately 389 linear feet of records are generally arranged by alphanumeric file code, and then chronologically within each file code. The collection is organized into 12 series, one series for each of the 12 alpha codes.

■ **1003 - Newspaper Collection**  
1920-1987

Yosemite National Park staff began collecting newspaper articles about the park from local, regional, and national newspapers and placing them into scrapbooks beginning at least as early as 1920 in order to document the news coverage of park related events and issues. The bulk of the materials date from 1920 to 1940. This collection contains approximately 61 linear feet of records

and is organized into three series. Series I contains 26 large-bound scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings that Yosemite staff created from 1920-1938. Series II contains original newspaper clippings and some press releases dating from 1962-1987 that have been attached to paper. Series III contains photocopies of the original clippings in Series I and II.

■ **1004 - Environmental Planning and Compliance Records**  
1968-2007

While responsibility for environmental planning and compliance duties originated in the superintendent's office, Yosemite National Park's Environmental Planning and Compliance (EP&C) Branch of the Project Management Division was established in 1999 to ensure all projects taking place in the park comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other laws and regulations as set forth in the National Park Service Director's Order #12. All material in the Environmental Planning and Compliance Records was created in the process of environmental planning and compliance activities. The approximately 140.5 linear feet of records contain correspondence, memoranda, reports, meeting and field notes, workbooks, and publications. Graphics, maps, architectural drawings, construction plans, and photographs are present in the collection as well as electronic and magnetic media.

■ **1005 - Admin Office**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **1006 - Concessions Management Records**  
1968-2008

The Yosemite National Park Concessions Management Office was created circa 1976, operating as the Concessions Management Division. The Concessions Management Branch Office is accountable for ensuring that quality visitor services are available to the public through contracts issued to private businesses operating in the park. Operating under the authority of the Department of the Interior, concessioners' services and rates are specifically dictated by the National Park Service.

The Concessions Management Records collection contains administrative files created and compiled by the Concessions Management Office of Yosemite National Park between 1968 and 2008. The Office's interactions with Yosemite concessioners, concession facilities, products, and services between 1978 and 1992 account for the bulk of the collection. Furthermore, a large portion of the records relate to the main concessioner, Yosemite Park & Curry Company. Most of the 51.3 linear feet of records are correspondence, concessioner case files, and records of buildings and transportation projects. The collection is organized into five series: Administrative Files, Individual

Concession Contracts, Concessioner Records for Buildings and Other Facilities, Correspondence, and the Concession Services Plan.

■ **1007 - Magistrate**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **1008 - Superintendent Records**  
1923-2010

The Records of the Office of the Superintendent represents an assortment of files deposited in the Yosemite Research Library and later transferred to the Yosemite Archives. The earliest documents in the collection are the annual and monthly reports. The body of the collection represents records released to the Yosemite Research Library and Yosemite Archives from 1991 to 2012.

The Records of the Office of the Superintendent Collection represents 15 accessions, which were deposited by various superintendent's office staff members from 1991 to 2012. 114 linear feet of records include reports, correspondence, appointment calendars, meeting notes, case files, project planning documents, budget spreadsheets, oversized maps and plans, black and white photographs, color photographs, Polaroid photographs, and electronic and magnetic media. The collection is organized into fourteen series.

■ **1009 - Cultural Resource Management Records**

This collection has not yet been processed



*Lucy Telles Mono Lake Paiute basketmaker RL-4425. Photographer unknown. Circa 1950s, Weaving basket in Yosemite.*

or cataloged.

■ **1010 - Archeology Associated Records**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **1011 - Natural Resources Management Records**  
1912-2012

The collection is comprised of records generated by National Park Service staff, primarily duty-stationed at Yosemite National Park, concerning the management of natural resources in the park during the years 1912 to 2012, with the bulk occurring between 1960 and 2000. The material consists of reports, surveys, studies, research data, correspondence, study proposals, articles, administrative documents, plans, maps, research papers, journals, photographs, computer disks, and memoranda relating to natural resources management. Topics include deer and bear management, contaminated lands, air and water quality, planning and compliance, threatened and endangered species, and program administrative records.

Most of the materials are reports and data relating to physical science and landscape ecology, wildlife management, and records generated by the office of the division chief during oversight of division functions. The approximately 125.1 linear feet of records are arranged by office of origin, record function, and subject (scientific discipline).

■ **1012 - Forestry Records**  
1911 - 1991

This collection was created by the NPS Forestry Office staff at Yosemite. A significant portion was created by Emil Ernst, a forester who was also involved in land exchanges. An amateur historian, Ernst studied grazing and wrote about the early guardians of the park. Ernst also wrote about meadow succession and prescribed burning long before such concepts were common.

Approximately 65 linear feet of records include annual reports, correspondence, maps, manuscripts, monthly reports, and plat records. Subjects: Yosemite forests and the effects of fire, insects, and human activities over time. Arranged into series by topic or function: land activities, needle miners, blister rust, private lands, fire records, logging, and re-vegetation.

■ **1013 - Glacier Studies Records**  
1922-1977

In 1931, Acting Director of the Department of the Interior, Horace Albright, created a committee on Glaciers in the Section of Hydrology of the American Geophysical Union. The committee focused on annual glacial surveys in various national parks. The Glacier Studies Collection contains approximately 3.32 linear feet of records and consists of reports, photographs, data, correspondence and negatives relating to glacier surveys conducted in and around Yosemite National Park. These surveys were completed as part of a larger National Park Service Project. The



Glacier Studies collection is arranged to reflect the four types of material found in the collection: Program Records, Reports and Studies, Data, and Photography.

#### ■ **1014 - Research Permits**

This collection is a placeholder for future associated records when they are submitted to the archives.

#### ■ **1015 - Jan van Wagtendonk Collection**

1923-2007

The Jan van Wagtendonk Collection consists of the documents and records created and received by Dr. van Wagtendonk during his tenure as a Yosemite National Park research scientist from 1972-2009. These documents contain information relating to research and scholarship undertaken by Dr. van Wagtendonk in areas of fire ecology, geographic information systems, and social carrying capacity as well as information regarding broader park programs and planning activities in which he participated including wilderness management, fire management, Yosemite Master Plan development, and scientific research initiatives.

Approximately 26.85 linear feet of records include correspondence, scientific data, manuscripts, draft and finalized plans, reports, scholarly reference materials, maps, floppy disks, and photographs (slides, negatives, and prints). The Jan van Wagtendonk Collection is arranged into nine series, Publications and Scholarly

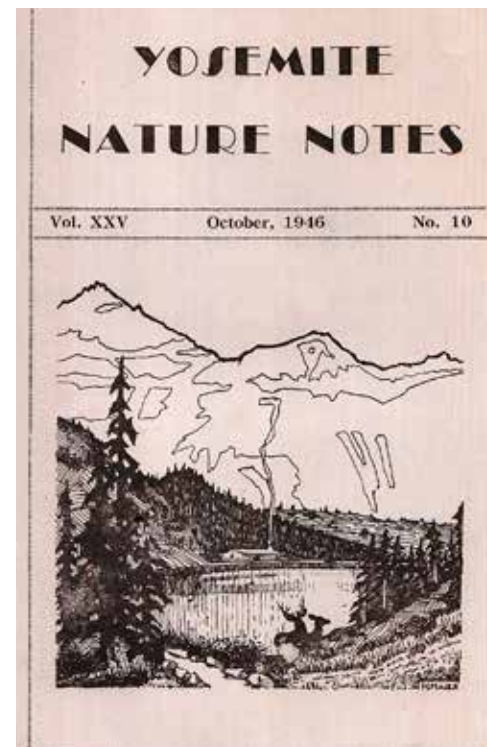
Activities, Scientific Data, Management Plan Development, Reference Materials, Correspondence, Merced Canyon Committee documents, Administrative Records, Slides, and Map of Trail Segment and Campsite Map - Wilderness Area Simulation Model.

#### ■ **1016 - Protection LE**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

#### ■ **1017 - Fire Management Records** 1930 - 2010

The collection contains materials relating to the park's fire program and details the wildland and structural fires that occurred in Yosemite National Park. The records were created by Yosemite's fire program between 1930 and 2010 with the bulk of the material dating from 1969-1999 being compiled and created by the Fire Management Office. The 71.8 linear feet of records include fire incident reports, fire inspections, annual fire season reports, search and rescue reports, prescribed fire plans and research, administrative files, fire management plans and planning documents, fire narratives, weather data, correspondence, cooperative agreements, newspaper articles, press releases, fire perimeter maps, charts, photographs, and materials relating to high water incidents and major fires in Yosemite National Park. Also included in the collection are Crane Flat Lookout and Henness Ridge Lookout visitor registers, panoramic lookout photographs from a United States Forest Service (USFS)



*Cover of Yosemite Nature Notes, October, 1946.*

project in the 1930s, and the Yosemite fire atlases. The collection is organized into ten series according to record function, original office filing system, type of material, and topic.

#### ■ **1018 - Facilities Management Records**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

#### ■ **1019 - Design & Engineering Flat Files**

1920s – 2000s

The Design and Engineering drawings/plans/maps archives is comprised of essentially two categories of documents:

a) various maps and drawings necessary to complete large-scale park-wide comprehensive master plans, General Management Plans and developed-area specific comprehensive design plans to guide future management decisions. Drawings graphically record existing conditions, such as; roads trails, boundaries, natural and cultural resource data, and facilities information, such as; buildings, locations of water, sewer, and electrical systems. Frequently, projects include alternatives rejected and alternatives to plans that were eventually approved; and b) a range of preliminary and final design construction projects, prepared by engineering, architecture, and landscape architecture staff and consultants for construction projects to meet its facilities development needs.

Planning as well as specific design projects are often prepared by an interdisciplinary team comprised of park staff, NPS Denver Service Center (DSC) specialists, concessioners, and/or consultants.

#### ■ **1020 - Project Management Records**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

#### ■ **1021 - Aerial Photograph Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

#### ■ **1022 - Yosemite Slide Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.





*Dr. Bryant with the Yosemite Field School of Natural History, July 7, 1931. RL 5838.*

### ■ **1023 - I Remember Yosemite Oral History Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

### ■ **1024 - Nature Notes Collection** 1922 - 1988

Orchestrated by Yosemite's ranger-naturalists and produced by the Yosemite Natural History Association (now the Yosemite Association) between 1922 and 1962, Yosemite Nature Notes was created to interest the press (no writing was copyrighted in the regular numbers), educate and guide Yosemite visitors, and, as a subscription-based magazine, provide interested readers across the country with a year-long immersion in Yosemite's macro- and micro-miscellanea. Each issue comprises short vignettes by ranger-naturalists about natural and

cultural park topics. The Yosemite Nature Notes Collection contains a nearly complete run of Yosemite Nature Notes, including "Special Numbers" (themed issues).

The collection contains 11 linear feet of records which are organized into two identical series, Yosemite Nature Notes—Preservation Copies and Yosemite Nature Notes—Research Copies. Also included in the collection are hardbound volumes of Yosemite Nature Notes from the Rocky Mountain National Park Library, which date 1923-1940 and sometimes include Yosemite Field School and other naturalist program publications. In addition, there are also mimeograph kits that were used to make early issues, along with the carbon and other copies of the issues produced with those kits are.

### ■ **1025 - Interpretation and Education Division Records** 1920s - 2002

Yosemite ranger-naturalists, such as Karl Russell, assembled these records. Russell was the author of *A Hundred Years in Yosemite* (1947), the first administrative history of Yosemite. Some of Russell's personal papers as a naturalist are also included within this collection. Approximately 70 linear feet of records include correspondence, manuscripts, and reports. Subjects: Activities of ranger naturalists at Yosemite, interpretive programming, the Yosemite Museum, Visitor's Center, and Wawona Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Arranged by file code.

### ■ **1026 - Museum Program Records** 1900-2011

This body of records represents the activities of the Museum Program's leadership and support staff, operating as a branch of the Interpretation and Education Division. The approximately 52 linear feet of records reflect the planning, operations, and special projects of the program chief, curator, registrar, archivist, librarian, historian, ethnographer, and museum technician. Of note is the presence of records documenting park activities before the creation of other divisions addressing issues regarding historic preservation, cultural resource studies, and Native American consultation. Since the museum program was directed by the chief park naturalist until the 1980s,

relevant documents may also be found in the correspondence and subject files of the Interpretation and Education Division. Document types include correspondence, annual reports, project reports, agreements, budgets, completed historic resources forms, publications, audio files, and photographic prints, slides, and negatives. Oversized maps, plans, drawings, and charts are also included.

### ■ **1027 - Craig Bates Collection** 1973 - 2005

Craig Bates joined the National Park Service in 1973 when he became a technician for the Indian Cultural Program at Yosemite. He returned as an Indian cultural specialist in 1976, and took the position of assistant curator in 1980. His primary responsibilities included procuring, curating, and preserving artifacts and objects. The Craig Bates Collection constitutes the papers he accumulated while working at Yosemite. They include his research files on Northern California Indians, as well as documentation on his official activities as Yosemite's Curator of Ethnography. Bates' papers reflect more recent scholarship on Native American history than do many other sources represented in the archives.

Approximately 36 linear feet of records include correspondence, research notes, manuscripts, reports, newspaper clippings, journal articles, photographs, sound recordings, drawings and maps and are organized into eight series: General Research, Yosemite Collection,



# DEED.

A. N. Washburn &  
John B. Bruce

TO

The Yo. Semite  
Stage and Turnpike  
Company

Dated December 15<sup>th</sup> 1877

Recorded at request of

J. B. Bruce

Washburn and Bruce sold land within the Yosemite Grant to the Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company, 1877, Washburn Family Papers.

Correspondence, Miwok Files, Berlin Files, Sources/Research, Ethnographic Appraisals, and NAGPRA Records.

## ■ 1028 - Field School of Natural

### History

1927 - 1980s

NPS Yosemite Field School of Natural History was started under the joint auspices of the National Park Service and the California Fish and Game Commission. Its staff consisted of park naturalists, university professors, and scientists. Much of the staff came from the University of California at Berkeley. Each year, the Field School picked two plats of land in Yosemite and taught students to study and track natural processes in these areas. In the Field School, students learned research processes for archeology, geology, botany, and zoology, and produced research reports. The field scrapbooks document the individuals involved and the work they did, as well as their social activities.

Approximately 10 linear feet of bound volumes and notebooks contain drawings, maps, photographs, and typed and handwritten notes. Included are scrapbooks kept by Field School students of their trips, along with reports on their research. Arranged first by format into two series: 1) Research Reports and 2) Scrapbooks, then arranged chronologically.

## ■ 1029 - Lands Program Records

This collection has not yet been processed

or cataloged.

## ■ 1030 - Master Plan & GMP

1960s - 1980

The Yosemite Master Plan Team created this collection under the guidance of Team Captain John Reynolds. It contains approximately 23 linear feet of records, draft General Management Plans, published GMPs, and supporting reports and records. Subjects: General Management Plans and preparations. Arranged chronologically.

## ■ 1031 - Historic Negative Collection

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

## ■ 2001 - Yosemite Park & Curry Company Collection

1889 - 2003

The Yosemite Park and Curry Company Collection contains the business records of one of the largest and longest operating concessionaires in the National Park System. The Yosemite Park and Curry Company (YP&CC) was organized in 1925 when Yosemite's two largest concessionaires merged: The Yosemite National Park Co. (previously the D.J. Desmond Co.) operated the Yosemite Lodge and other smaller enterprises at Yosemite, and the Curry Camping Co., which operated Camp Curry. Creation of the new company was the culmination of a decade-long effort by NPS Director Stephen Mather to consolidate services at Yosemite to better serve the visiting public and more efficiently develop visitor





*Brochure mock-up, ca. 1960s, marketing ephemera, Yosemite Park and Curry Company Collection Note: The Firefall was discontinued in 1968.*

services in the park.

During its sixty-eight years of operation, YP&CC interactions with the NPS set many precedents for concessionaire operations in the national park system, and played an influential role in the development of tourism in California. Among the company's most significant activities was the development of a strong winter sports infrastructure and tradition at Yosemite, including construction and

operation of Badger Pass, California's first downhill ski area; establishment of the Yosemite Winter Club; the construction of the Ahwahnee Hotel; and creation of the Bracebridge Dinner. Among other accomplishments, the company also expanded the High Sierra Camps and created the Yosemite Mountaineering School.

The collection includes a large assemblage of documents, photographs, ephemera, architectural drawings, motion picture film, and audio cassettes. Approximately 480 linear feet of records are arranged into eleven series by company and document type. Subjects: Operations, facilities, services, and promotion of the YP&CC (and preceding concessionaires) at Yosemite, including such activities as transportation of visitors; construction and maintenance of structures; personnel activities; staff at work (including such notable employees as Ansel Adams and Dana Morgenson); and special events.

#### ■ **2002 - Joseph Dixon Collection** 1909-1948, 1970

The Joseph S. Dixon Collection contains photographic documentation created or collected by Dixon during his career as a naturalist, field biologist, mammologist, wildlife biologist, educator and photographer and some field notes. The material in this collection documents wildlife, flora, and scenes from California, Alaska, and National Park Service sites throughout the western United States. The collection is comprised of several

thousand photographic images of various formats including lantern slides, 35mm slides, nitrate and acetate negatives, glass plate negatives, albumen prints, oversize silver gelatin prints, and one 16mm film. The collection also contains a few images by other photographers and some from 1970. The small amount of textual documentation included in the collection is comprised of Yosemite Field School notes and class history, manuscripts of his article "Birds of Kings Canyon National Park Area, California," and correspondence regarding his scientific work. The approximately 35.15 linear feet of records are arranged into nine series based on format.

#### ■ **2003 - Frank Latta Papers** 1922 - 1980

Frank Latta (1892 - 1978) was a historian, teacher, curator, author, and ethnographer who wrote extensively on the central and southern San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada. This collection consists of his ethnographic records. The remainder of his personal papers were divided between private collectors and the Huntington Library. A good friend of ethnographer and linguist John P. Harrington, Latta collected extensive information on Fort Miller and the Native Americans of the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. Latta interviewed many Native Americans about their languages, folklore, and cultures, particularly the Miwok and Yokuts peoples. This collection includes an ethnography of the southern Sierra Nevada and the southern

San Joaquin Valley in California. The collection has extensive information on the historic landscape, built environment, language, customs, and activities of the Miwok and Yokuts peoples, as well as Fort Miller. The ethnographic papers of Frank Latta fall into five groups: Field Notes, Correspondence, Manuscripts, Sources, and Photographs. 27.5 linear feet of records include book manuscripts, correspondence, ethnographic dictionaries, genealogical notes, interview notes, lists, maps, publications, and research materials such as language notes. There are also plant specimens, baskets and archeological materials in the museum; and some films and audio recordings in the archives, but are currently inaccessible to researchers in these formats.

Note: Information on archeological sites and ethnographic data may be restricted due to federal privacy and Native American Religious Freedom legislation.

#### ■ **2004 - Wawona Washburn Papers** 1869 - 1932

The Washburn Family built and owned the Wawona Hotel and the Yosemite Stage and Turnpike Company. This collection contains approximately 50 linear feet of business records, correspondence, ephemera, financial ledgers, purchase orders, notes on the Wawona school operations, and diary pages.

Subject: The business history of the Wawona Hotel and the Yosemite



Stage and Turnpike Company, as well as the historical furnishings of the hotel. The collection is particularly good at providing information on the individuals who worked for the Washburn family in Yosemite including cooks, stage hands, farm laborers, etc. There is also documentation on the operations of the Wawona school. Arranged by operation, then chronologically.

■ **2005 - Wawona Washburn Hartwig Papers**

1834-2000, bulk dates 1961-2000

Much of the material in the Wawona Washburn Hartwig Papers corresponds to Wawona Hartwig's research efforts in writing her own childhood memoirs, her family history, as well as assisting Shirley Sargent with her book on the Wawona area. The collection also contains several unpublished manuscript drafts that provide anecdotal information and history on the Wawona Hotel in the early 1900s. The approximately 7.0 linear feet of records contain materials including original correspondence, notes, deed reproductions, legal records, articles, forms, maps, brochures, pamphlets, event programs, newspaper clippings, magazines, newsletters, stationary, menus, paperback publications, reviews, journal reproductions, postcards, polyester and acetate negatives, photographs, a scrapbook, a passport, insurance information, hair samples, manuscript drafts, slides, and DVDs of digitized materials in the collection. The papers have been divided into six subject



**Construction of the Big Oak Flat Road, June 9, 1936. Negative RL-8702.**

series: Clarence Washburn Diaries, Research Files [A to Z], Manuscript, Materials, Family Materials, Postcards, and Photographs.

■ **2006 - Shirley Sargent Collection**

1811-2006, bulk dates 1930-2004

Shirley Sargent dedicated most of her life to writing about Yosemite's history. Sargent was born on July 12, 1927, and by the time of her death, she had written over 30 books, over 100 articles, and numerous other stories and guidebooks. Most of her books either documented Yosemite's history or were fictional stories based on Yosemite. Her accounts of Yosemite's history have been recognized for showcasing little-known parts of the park's pioneer past. The majority of the material in the Shirley Sargent Collection

is associated with her research and correspondence from 1990 to 2004.

The contents of the collection have been organized into five series: Research, Photographs, Postcards, Books, and Fernando Peñalosa's donation of his research about Sargent. Approximately 22 linear feet of records contains material including correspondence, notes, forms, deeds, legal records, articles, newspapers, drawings, prints, maps, blueprints, diazotypes, linens, photographs, nitrate and acetate negatives, slides, stereographs, photo albums, postcards, scrapbooks, brochures, programs, pamphlets, calendars, menus, magazines, journals, bulletins, newsletters, hardcover publications, paperback publications, children's books, reviews, manuscripts, and special media.

■ **2007 - Yosemite Association Records**

1923-2010

This body of records represents the activities of the Yosemite Association (YA), also known as the Yosemite Natural History Association (YNHA). It also contains records representing the activities of the Yosemite Fund (YF), reflecting its work as a special committee of the YA until its incorporation as an independent entity in 1988. Records reflect the organization's operational policies, governance, management, revenue stream, aid-to-NPS, partnerships, and programs of research, education, publication, outreach, and service. With a bulk of the records dating between

1960 and 2009, most represent activities under the leadership of Business Manager Henry Berrey, President Steven Medley, and Chief Executive Officer David Guy and their staff members. The general arrangement of approximately 84 linear feet of records proceeds from documents generated by and about the organization's governing leadership to papers reflecting daily operational activities.

■ **2008 - Yosemite Institute Collection**

1965 - 1985

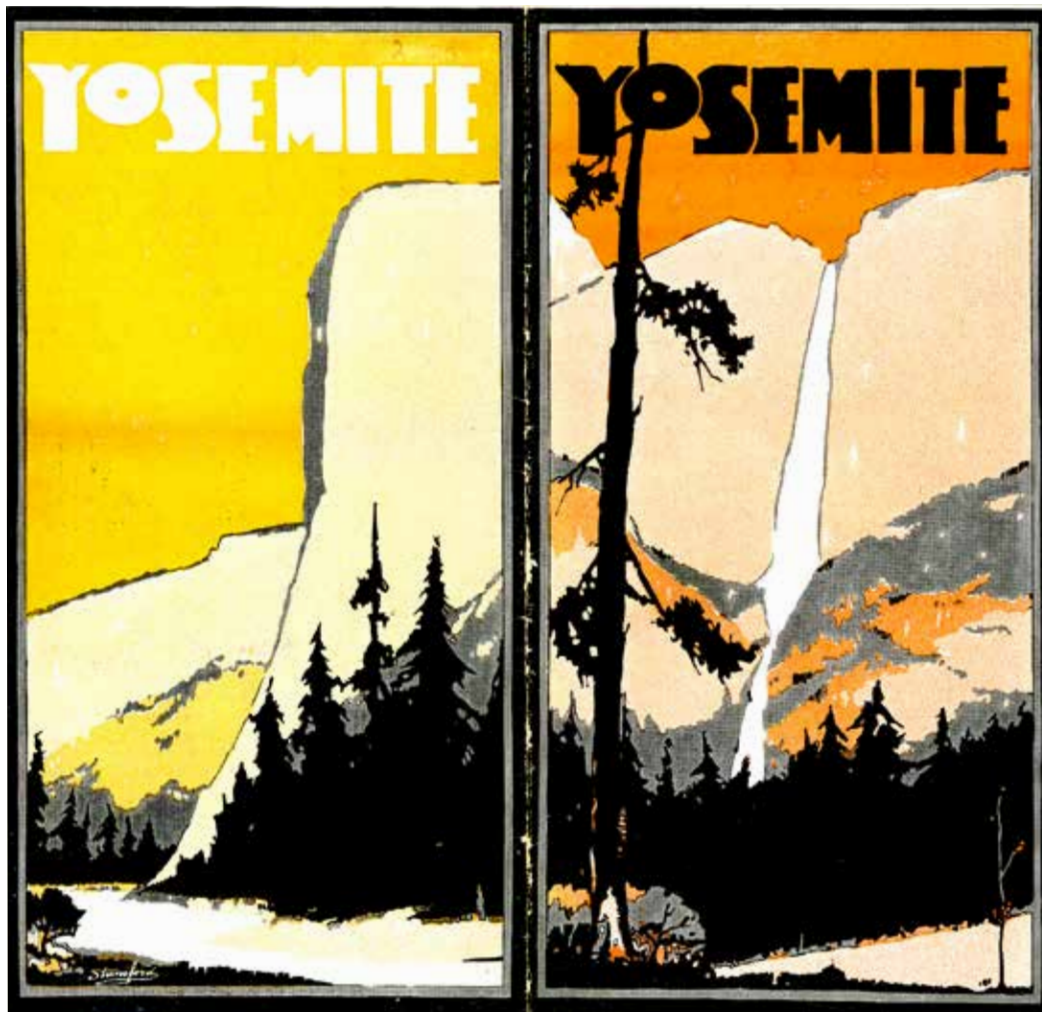
Organized in 1972, the Yosemite Institute is a non-profit environmental education organization. This collection contains papers on the founding and organization of the Institute. The collection contains correspondence with certain notable environmentalists such as Wallace Stegner. There are approximately 12 linear feet of records including correspondence and reports. Subject: Environmental education programs planned and conducted at Yosemite via the Yosemite Institute between 1972 and 1985. Unarranged.

■ **2009 - Yosemite Preschool Collection**

1967 - 1988

This collection is the business, personnel, and planning records of the Yosemite Preschool, a local community nursery school in the Yosemite Valley. It contains approximately 2 linear feet of business, correspondence, financial, and personnel records. Subjects: The creation





*Marketing ephemera from the Yosemite Park and Curry Company Collection, ca. 1930s.*

and operation of a preschool facility in Yosemite. Arranged by document type.

■ **2010 - High School Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2011 - Yosemite Schools Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2012 - Yosemite Employee Association**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2013 - SEIU Union Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2014 - Youth Conservation Corps Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed

or cataloged.

■ **2015 - Girl Scouts Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2016 - El Portal Ambulance Records**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2017 - American Legion Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2018 - Medical Clinic (Lewis Memorial Hospital)**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2019 - Nic Fiori Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2020 - Ferdinand Castillo Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2021 - Hank Johnston Papers**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2022 - Harry Parker Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2023 - Francois Matthes Papers**

1912 - 1948

Francois Matthes was a geographer for the United States Geological Survey who completed topographic work on Yosemite Valley around 1904. This collection covers the subject of the topographic

features of the Yosemite Valley and the work of the USGS around 1904. Approximately one linear foot of records include correspondence, maps, and photographs. The photographs primarily document geographic features. The rest of Matthes' papers are at the USGS. The original order of these records was dismantled at some time in the past and the collection has since been put back in order by document type.

Note: Photographs have been removed from this collection and are housed in the museum vault.

■ **2024 - Joseph R. Paquette Poetry Collection**

1979 - 1990

Joseph Paquette began employment with the Yosemite Park and Curry Company on April 26, 1959, where he worked as the manager of the Yosemite Lodge storeroom. He worked in the park for over twenty-nine years, where he also held frequent opera appreciation meetings. In 1979, Paquette was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and became very religious after the diagnosis. The Joseph R. Paquette Poetry Collection contains over 290 poems written by Paquette between 1979 and 1990 during his later years as a longtime Yosemite Park and Curry Company employee. Most the poems in the collection are influenced by the natural beauty of Yosemite National Park.

The collection is comprised of 289





*Still frame of Vernal Fall from hand colored nitrate film, ca. 1920s, Historic Film Collection.*

unique poems, with four unpublished bound books containing poetry written by Paquette. The collection contains 1 linear foot of materials and is arranged into two format-based series: Loose Poetry and Bound Poetry. Arrangement of the collection reflects the creator's organization of the poetry he authored during his later years at the Park.

■ **2025 - William L. Neely Papers**

1942-1993, bulk dates 1942-1978

The William L. Neely Papers contain long-time Yosemite Naturalist William L. Neely's journals and incidental writings. The journals are rich with detailed nature observations and sketches of plants. Peppered in are fragments of plant specimens, sketches, letters, photographs, postcards, newspaper articles, and wine labels. The approximately 7.0 linear feet of records also houses a sketchbook of Neely's drawings and sketches, plant specimens that Neely collected over the years in his journals, photographs and letters addressed to Neely and to Shields.

■ **2026 - Giles Estate Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2027 - David Robertson Papers**

1980 - 1990

David Robertson was a professor of American Studies at the University of California at Davis, author of several books on Yosemite, and served on the Yosemite Association Board.

Approximately 4 linear feet of records include correspondence, drafts of book manuscripts about Yosemite, and notes. Subject: A history of the artists who have lived or worked in Yosemite and their drawings, paintings, and sculpture. Manuscripts are arranged into series by date, then by subject.

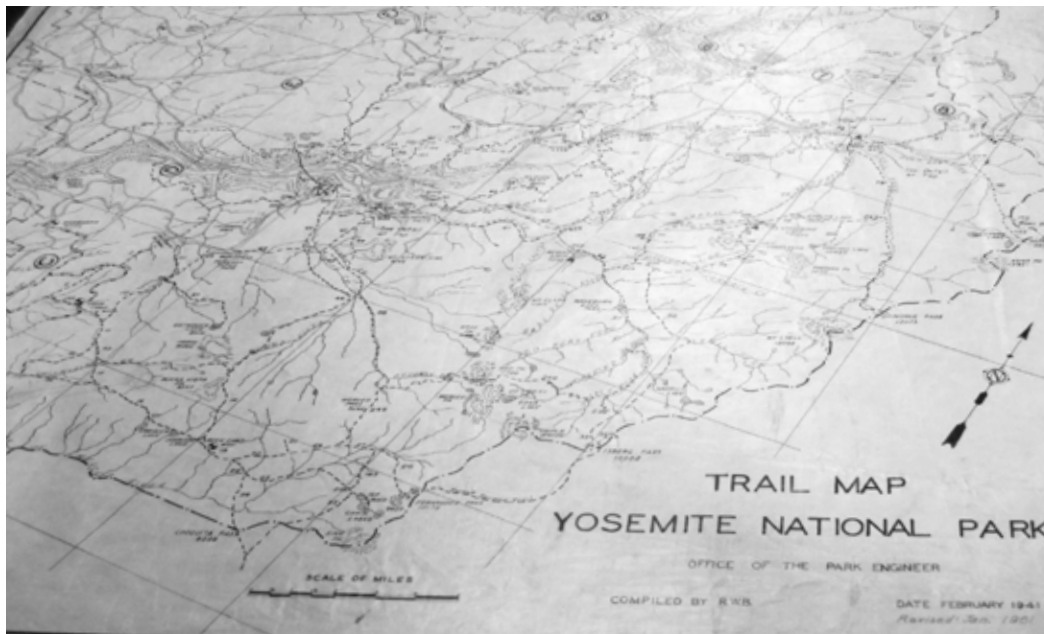
■ **2028 - Yosemite Valley Railroad Collection**

1920s - 1940s

These papers and forms were discovered in the Yosemite Valley Railroad stations after the railroad disbanded in 1945. This collection also includes two other related accessions: 1) materials bought by the NPS on the 1945-1947 sale of the railroad, and; 2) a gift from Hank Johnson who wrote *Railroads of the Yosemite Valley and Short Line to Paradise*. Note: The items listed under accession 1 relate to Bagby Station and they are linked to the Yosemite Valley Railroad and Yosemite Transportation System of the Curry Company.

Approximately 3 linear feet of records include clippings, forms, rates, schedules, time sheets and timetables, correspondence, maps, motion picture film, and ephemera, such as negatives, photographs, and posters on the sale of the rolling stock. Note: This collection contains several photos attributed to Ansel Adams by his wife. Subjects: Business records relating to the operations of the railroad, including activities such as laying and removing track. Arranged





*Yosemite Trail Map on linen 1941-1961, Design and Engineering Collection, E4-Drawer 8.*

into three series by accession, otherwise unarranged.

■ **2029 - Tioga Mines and Tioga Roads Collection**  
1879 - 1910

These business and legal records relate to the claims for the Tioga Mines (gold and silver) and Tioga Road (Highway 120) – built in 1883. Approximately 1.5 linear feet of records include the original charter for the road, mine plats (hand drawn), legal documents, and notebooks that are transcriptions of letters. Subjects: The condition and maintenance of the Tioga Road between 1883 and 1910, as well as some topical coverage of the gold and silver mines collectively called the Tioga Mines. Note: These records both relate to and precede Stephen Mather's private purchase and care of

the road. Arranged by document type.

■ **2030 - Rotary Club Collection**  
This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2031 - Yosemite Women's Group Collection**  
1955 - 1989

The Yosemite Women's Group was founded by Marian Woessner, wife of Yosemite dentist Charles Woessner, in 1951, shortly after their arrival in Yosemite during the winter of that year. These records depict the regular activities of the group through meeting records maintained by the secretary, in addition to announcements and invitations for special events organized by the group for the Yosemite community. Other materials, such as scholarship applications received

by the group from 1987 to 1989; and group records related to the role of the women's group in the annual American Field Service weekend in Yosemite National Park are also included in this collection. The approximately 0.7 linear feet of materials are arranged chronologically according to the order by which it was created starting in 1955.

■ **2032 - Yosemite Conversation Club Collection**  
1934-1995

The Conversation Club records are comprised of 2.3 linear feet of materials. The bulk of the collection is paper, although there are also 23 photographs from a photo album of the club. The materials cover a date range from the start of the club in 1934 to 1995. Materials include original and revised versions of the club's Constitution and By-laws; retrospective papers written looking back on the club history; announcements for meetings and meeting minutes; membership lists; schedules of readers and hosts; correspondence and invitations to membership; and essays written by members to be presented at meetings. The photograph album is comprised of photographs from a club social in 1988. The largest part of the collection is comprised of the essays written for discussion at the club meetings.

■ **2033 - The Merced Canyon Committee Records**  
1980s

The Merced Canyon Committee was a

volunteer organization which fought the development of a hydroelectric project on the Merced River in the 1970s and 1980s. The project included a dam, penstock, tunnel, and a power plant. Once the project was defeated through public outcry, and the Merced River received Wild and Scenic River status, the committee disbanded. Approximately 16.5 linear feet of records include correspondence, hearing minutes, maps, membership lists, newsletters, and 35 mm color slides. Subjects: The geography, geology, and history of the Merced River in Yosemite and the potential impact of a dam and power plant. Arranged by subject and issue.

■ **2034 - Laura White Brunner Papers**  
1916 - 1945

Known for climbing Half Dome in 1915 before the NPS began installing cables, Laura Brunner was both a laundress employed by the Curry Camping Company and an early mountain climber. Brunner was the author of several magazine articles on her early life in the park. 1.5 linear feet of papers depicts her life at Yosemite from 1916 to 1917, and includes an unpublished manuscript and some negatives.

■ **2035 - Lions Club Collection**  
This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2036 - Yosemite Cooperative Collection**  
This collection has not yet been processed



or cataloged.

■ **2037 - Marry and Bill Hood**

**Collections**

1950s - 1963

Bill and Mary Hood were amateur historians, active photographers, and producers of historic base maps for Yosemite. Both Bill and Mary Hood also had a major hand in creating the "browsing file" of photo cards in the research library. This collection includes many copy images taken from other California repositories, including the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley and Stanford University. Since the park does not have the copyright to these images, it does not provide copies for publication, distribution, or exhibition of the reproduced images.

Approximately 60 linear feet of materials include 35 mm silver gelatin negatives, 3x5" prints, note cards, and indices in notebooks to photographic holdings in all major California collections relating to Yosemite. Subjects: Yosemite natural and cultural history, including place names, structures, transportation, logging, geology, and botany (predominantly Mariposa Grove). Arranged by document type.

■ **2038 - King Huber Papers**

1950 - 2007

N. King Huber was a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey who specialized in the geology of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. Huber was the author

of The Geological Story of Yosemite National Park. His collection contains approximately 7 linear feet of records. In addition, the collection includes oversized research material dealing especially with the ancient Tuolumne River and Yosemite Valley. This collection has two file groupings: the first is correspondence, the second is research, publications, and historical geology. In addition, it includes a nearly complete set of King's publications, geologic maps, monographs, and his bibliographic card file.

Some maps and monographs were King's working copies and contain his notes. King's correspondence files include many of his review comments on impending publications, as well as debate of geological issues.

■ **2039 - Yosemite West Property and Homeowners Incorporated Records**

1920-2000

Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc. is a non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of California on April 26, 1977 and dedicated to promoting and protecting the best interests of property and homeowners in Yosemite West, a subdivision created in 1967 by Yosemite West Associates, a limited partnership whose general partner is Forty Acres, Inc., a California corporation. These records document the activities of the organization related to sewage treatment, water scarcity, and land-development and planning

from the 1960's through 2000. The approximately 4.0 linear feet of records include correspondence, memoranda, minutes, membership and dues records, architectural drawings, and circulars from the Yosemite West Property and Homeowners Incorporated regarding Yosemite West Unit #1 subdivision.

■ **2040 - Yosemite Ephemera Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2041 - John Buwalda Papers**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2042 - Dave Graber Bear Research Collection**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.

■ **2043 - Margaret and Harold Sprout Journal**

This collection has not yet been processed or cataloged.





Photographer Eadweard Muybridge and Party, YOSE 6173.

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Back Cover: Two track toboggan with rope conveyor, Yosemite Valley, 1927. Winter Club Scrapbook, page 3.

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